

May 31, 1963

Dr. J. B. S. Haldane
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Dear Professor Haldane:

I am sorry about the misprints that plague the computer outputs. It is a serious problem; not uniquely American. Dr. Garfield will surely respond directly. If he spent less time in salesmanship, there would be no ISI at all: perhaps that would be preferable by your own reckoning.

Your invitation to visit is very much appreciated, and I will certainly take advantage of it when I can. But I have sharply cut down on travelling nowadays. You may have been thinking of a DNA conference I was invited to, but won't be able to attend.

Do you think western communities have been so much less isolated? I rather think we grossly underestimate the stratification that still persists now, and must have been much sharper a generation ago. I am looking for some measure of this through analyses of seasonability of birth -- the details of the $10\% \pm$ annual swing in the United States look like a distinctive signature of social group, so there should be something interesting in birthday correlations among spouses (perhaps less confoundedly among sibs-in-law). Finding large files of useful family data is not easy, but the Census Bureau may eventually come through. The measures are so weak that very large numbers are needed and I have to find collections already machinable for computer handling.

All this started from a reinvestigation of the old storées about birthmonth vs. genius and mental retardation. I am quite convinced now that the seasonal effects are amply explained as indexes of family origin; this is of course hard to prove without extensive kindred data.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

HALDANE